

DEFENSE MECHANISM OF JERRY SHAW IN D.J.CARUSO'S

***EAGLE EYE* MOVIE (2008):**

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH



Research Paper

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for Achieving Bachelor Degree
of Education in English Department

by:

MOCHAMAD ADAM ALI AKBAR

A 320 060 367

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

2010

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Problem is the one thing that always comes into human's life. It is a fact that people cannot avoid the problem in life. One that people can do just face it as well as they can. Usually someone will do something as the defense from his problem or anxiety of something. For example a man that does not know anything in any situation suddenly has a phone call from a stranger and has to do what the speaker says in the phone call, he will do something to protect himself or to do what he wants. Maybe in other situation such as in an office, an officer will do anything that the boss says because he is scared. An officer also realizes that at office, boss is the leader and what he says is something that any officers have to do even though they do not like it. When they are out from the office far from their boss, they do what they want and sometime they switch all the pressure from their boss to their friends. In this case, people show defense against open expression of *id* impulses.

Defense mechanism is a way that people use to protect the individual self-esteem and defend them against excessive anxiety when facing with continuing frustration (Hilgard, 1962: 511). The ego defense mechanism can make people feel satisfied, although it cannot help them much. This way just gives another way on giving the perfect reason on doing something, rejects about something and makes their personality better when they feel inferior and anxious. Freud (in

Hjelle and Ziegler, 1976: 38) stated that defense mechanism is a strategy used by the individual to defense against open expression of *id* impulses and super ego pressure. Here, the writer wants to explore the defense mechanism on the major character's personality that is shown in *Eagle Eye*, a movie written by Dan McDermott and directed by D.J. Caruso.

Nowadays, the story of the movie based not only on true story of the writer, but also from the imagination story of someone or something in the world. Usually the director takes one of the greatest thought or one of the greatest people as the resources or the idea to make a movie.

There are many directors who make the movie based on imagination story. One of them is D.J. Caruso. Daniel John "D.J." Caruso was born in January 17, 1965. Caruso graduated from Pepperdine University. He married Holly Kuespert on July 6, 1991 and they have 5 children. He is an American director and producer from Norwalk, Connecticut. Caruso has directed the movies *Disturbia*, *Two for the Money*, *Taking Lives*, *The Salton Sea*, and *Eagle Eye*. He has also directed television episodes for shows such as *The Shield*, *Over There*, *Smallville*, *Dark Angel*. His first feature movie as a director was *The Salton Sea* which starred Val Kilmer. It was released in 2002. In 2004, Caruso directed *Taking Lives* with Angelina Jolie, Ethan Hawke and Kiefer Sutherland. The movie was released in theaters on March 16, 2004. He directed his first music video in 2007 for the song "Don't Make Me Wait" by This World Fair. In 2007, Caruso was asked by Steven Spielberg to direct *Disturbia*. The movie was Caruso's first big hit grossing over \$117 million, with only a \$20 million budget. It starred Shia LaBeouf, Sarah

Roemer, David Morse, Aaron Yoo, and Carrie-Anne Moss. It was released April 13, 2007 in theaters and on DVD August 7.

Eagle Eye movie was released in September 26, 2008, and published Dream Works Picture. This movie was played in 118 minutes. *Eagle Eye* was Caruso's second collaboration with Shia LaBeouf. It also starred Michelle Monaghan, Billy Bob Thornton, and Rosario Dawson and was released in theaters September 26, 2008. It was produced by Steven Spielberg. Critic reactions were mixed but, on its opening weekend the movie grossed \$29.1 million dollars in 3,510 theaters in the United States and Canada. It has grossed \$201 million worldwide with a movie budget of \$80 million.

The movie begins with Jerry Shaw (Shia LaBeouf) who is a Stanford University dropout who lacks direction and faces financial difficulty. He finds out that his more ambitious twin brother Ethan, an Air Force lieutenant with expertise in parallel algorithms and quantum electronics, is dead. Following the funeral in January 2009, he goes to withdraw some money from an ATM and is surprised to see that he has \$750,000 in his account. When he returns home, he finds his apartment filled with a large number of weapons, explosives, and forged documents. He receives a phone call from an unknown woman, with a vaguely familiar voice, who explains that the FBI will apprehend him in thirty seconds and that he must escape.

Not believing her, he is caught by the FBI and sent to an interrogation room where he meets Special Agent Thomas Morgan (Billy Bob Thornton). When Morgan leaves the room to meet with Air Force Office of Special Investigations

Special Agent Zoe Perez (Rosario Dawson), the unknown woman arranges Jerry's escape over a phone by a crane which hits the building. Jerry has escaped and the unknown woman has him join up with single mother Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan). The unknown woman is coercing Rachel into assisting Jerry by threatening to kill her son, Sam, a trumpet player on his way to Washington, D.C., from Chicago for a band recital.

The woman helps the pair to avoid the Chicago Police and FBI units, demonstrating the ability to remotely control virtually any networked device, such as traffic lights that turns into green, cell phones, automated cranes, and even electrical wires. While Jerry and Rachel follow her instructions, the woman has other 'agents' (other people whom she has blackmailed) create a crystal explosive made into a necklace and its sound-based trigger placed inside Sam's trumpet. Jerry and Rachel are led from Chicago to Washington, D.C. via Kendall County, Indianapolis and Dayton, Ohio through various means. They reach a Circuit City electronics store to which the woman directs them. Over several television screens she introduces herself to them: she is a top secret supercomputer, the same one seen in the beginning of the movie, called "Autonomous Reconnaissance Intelligence Integration Analyst" (ARIIA) (voiced by Julianne Moore) tasked with gathering intelligence from all over the world.

In light of the mistake made by the President at the beginning of the movie, ARIIA has decided that the executive branch is a threat to the public good and must be eliminated. ARIIA plans to destroy the President's cabinet, and calls this Operation Guillotine. She has decided to leave the Secretary of Defense who

had agreed with her recommendation to abort the mission as the successor to the presidency. ARIIA does not reveal this to Jerry or Rachel, merely explaining that she is trying to help the people of the United States.

At the Pentagon, where ARIIA is housed, Agent Perez discovers that Jerry's late brother, Ethan, worked as a technician for the computer and locked it down to prevent ARIIA from carrying out her plan. Perez warns the Secretary of Defense and they discuss the situation in a sealed room to prevent ARIIA from hearing their conversation. Jerry and Rachel arrive at the Pentagon and are led to the supercomputer, where ARIIA forces Jerry to impersonate Ethan and use his own biometrics to override the lockdown, allowing her to go ahead with the plan.

ARIIA shows Jerry CCTV footage displaying Ethan's fatal car crash, explaining that she orchestrated his death because he was a threat to her plans. ARIIA then instructs Rachel to eliminate Jerry to prevent the lock from being reinstated, but Rachel cannot bring herself to do it. Rachel is led out of the building, when ARIIA calls in some guards, while Jerry is caught by Agent Morgan. Having been warned by Agent Perez, Morgan believes Jerry's story and takes him to the United States Capitol. ARIIA sends a MQ-9 Reaper UCAV after them. They barely escape the drone's first pass, and Agent Morgan sacrifices himself to destroy the drone and save Jerry. Meanwhile, Agent Perez returns to the supercomputer and destroys it by draining out the cooling fluid.

Rachel is unknowingly given the explosive necklace by an official who was also coerced by ARIIA and Rachel is sent to the Capitol to watch the President's speech where she is left to die along with her son and the presidential

staff. Sam's class, whose recital has been moved from the Kennedy Center to the Capitol for the President's State of the Union Address, begins to play. The trigger that will set off the explosive necklace is set to activate when Sam plays a sustained "high F" on his trumpet corresponding to the word "free" in the last stanza of the U.S. national anthem, as ARIIA had arranged this as poetic justice, believing the president to not be brave. Jerry successfully gains entry dressed as a Capitol policeman and fires his pistol into the air, stopping the performance just before the deadly note. Jerry is then shot several times by a confused Secret Service agent.

In a hearing after the chaos ARIIA caused, the Secretary of Defense urges that another supercomputer should not be built: "sometimes the very measures we put into place to safeguard our liberty become threats to liberty itself," he cautions them. Ethan posthumously receives the Medal of Honor and Agent Morgan posthumously receives the Commendation Medal, while Jerry, injured but alive and well, receives the Congressional Gold Medal. The movie ends with Jerry attending Sam's birthday party. Rachel thanks him for attending, which her ex-husband had never done, and kisses him on the cheek. She then tells Jerry that she's glad he's there. He then responds, "Me too".

Considering the above explanatory ideas, the writer turns to analyze the movie by using psychoanalytic approach because of some consideration. The first reason because of Jerry Shawn's personality is the mirror of human being. He has the feeling of ambition, anxiety and confusion when he meets something and faces

the reality in his life. The second is that the movie has great possibility to know the phenomenon of psychological problems in the character.

The third is that the movie really interesting because it uses many experienced actors and actress. So it makes this movie really promising to be watched. The fourth reason is that this movie has a good story that not all modern technology are useful for all sectors in human life, in this case used by security military sector that illustrated in this movie. The fifth reason because this movie teaches not to depend on technology. In this study the writer encourages himself to give a title: DEFENSE MECHANISM OF JERRY SHAW IN D.J. CARUSO'S *EAGLE EYE* MOVIE (2008): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

As long as the writer knows, there is no other research that has been conducted to study the movie *Eagle Eye* in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Surakarta Region.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background of the study, the writer formulates the problem as follows: "How is the defense mechanism reflected in the main character's personality of Jerry Shawn in *Eagle Eye* movie?".

D. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the writer will focus on the analysis of main character's personality and the ego defense mechanism, which appears using psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Analyzing the structural elements of the movie *Eagle Eye*.
2. Analyzing the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are some benefits expected from this study, such as:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research can contribute to the knowledge about literary study especially psychological approach toward the literary work.

2. Practical Benefit

This research can give more understanding about the movie, especially the main character in *Eagle Eye* from psychoanalytic approach.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The writer takes the film *Eagle Eye* as the object of the study. This movie is directed by D.J. Caruso and published by Dream Works Pictures.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The writer divides the data source into two categories:

a. Primary data source

The primary data source of the study is *Eagle Eye* movie.

b. Secondary data source

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer uses two techniques of data collection:

a. Observation

It is used to make the analysis by watching the movie several times to get the understanding about this movie.

b. Library research

There are some procedures in library research:

- 1) Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- 2) Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required.
- 3) Making notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- 4) Classifying the data into categories.

5) Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses two techniques in analyzing the data:

- a. Analyzing the structural elements of the movie includes the narrative elements and technical elements.
- b. Analyzing the defense mechanism of main character using descriptive qualitative analysis.

5. Type of the Study

The type of this study is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

H. Paper Organization

The writer makes an organization of this paper in order to make an easy understanding. There are five chapters in this research paper. Chapter I is introduction which consist of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It deals with the notion of psychoanalytic theory, the basic concepts of psychoanalysis and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis of the movie, including narrative and technical elements. Chapter IV is dealing with the analysis of the major character using psychoanalytic approach. Finally Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion of the research.